



Meditation for Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend January 17, 2021

Follow me. . . . [John 1:43]

Come and see. . . . [John 1:46]

"God still has a way of wringing good out of evil. And history has proven over and over again that unmerited suffering is redemptive. The innocent blood of these little girls may well serve as a redemptive force that will bring new light to this dark city...And so I stand here to say this afternoon to all assembled here, that in spite of the darkness of this hour, we must not despair. We must not become bitter, nor must we harbor the desire to retaliate with violence. . . . Somehow we must believe that the most misguided among them can learn to respect the dignity and the worth of human personality."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday we will hear the story of the call of Philip and Nathanael to become disciples of Jesus, as told in the Gospel of John. The key words in this story give us a fresh perspective on evangelism. *Come and see*, says Philip to Nathanael, echoing the words that Jesus said to him,

Come and see Philip says to those of us who, like Nathanael, ask *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"*

Come and see what God is doing in our hearts and our lives.

Come and see what God makes possible.

Come and see God's purpose for us — *I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*

Come and see, the Lord says to us —

Come and see the work that I have set before you —

to recognize and honor each other's gifts

to be good stewards of the blessings I have bestowed on you

to support and challenge each other

to share all that I have given you for your community

Come and see the cross that stands before you, an absolute and unshakable reality: look at it fearlessly and it will become a prism through which you will see that you are not alone. *Come and stand in the shadow of my cross, and I will make [your] footing sure and [I] will put a new song in [your] mouth.*

Eleonora Stump: *The voice of God can be anywhere, in any guise. It isn't thunder and lightning or extraordinary psychic happenings that connect a person to God. Rather, it is the willingness to listen, to trust and obey, that makes the Lord known to you.*